United Nations S/PV.7877

Security Council

Seventy-second year

Provisional

7877th meeting
Tuesday, 7 February 2017, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Yelchenko	(Ukraine)
Members:	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Mr. Llorentty Soliz
	China	Mr. Shen Bo
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Ethiopia	Mr. Alemu
	France	Mr. Delattre
	Italy	Mr. Piagetti
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Kazakhstan	Mr. Umarov
	Russian Federation	Mr. Zagaynov
	Senegal	Mr. Cisse
	Sweden	Mr. Skoog
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mrs. Haley
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermudez

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2017/97)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a consolidated corrigendum.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

Fourth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2017/97)

The President: In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2017/97, which contains the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat.

I now give the floor to Mr. Feltman.

Mr. Feltman: I thank you for the opportunity to brief the Security Council on the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2017/97).

This report was prepared with the input of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, and in close collaboration with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and other relevant United Nations actors and international organizations.

The report stresses that the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is on the defensive militarily in several regions, but although its income and the territory under its control are shrinking, ISIL still appears to have sufficient funds to continue fighting. The group relies mainly on income from extortion and hydrocarbon exploitation, even though resources from the latter are on the decline. Member States are concerned that ISIL will try to expand other sources of income, such as kidnapping for ransom, and increase its reliance on donations.

ISIL is adapting in several ways to military pressure, resorting to increasingly covert communication and recruitment methods, including by using the dark web, encryption and messengers. Moreover, it has expanded its area of attacks to countries neighbouring Iraq and Syria, while continuing to encourage followers further afield to perpetrate attacks. Meanwhile, foreign terrorist fighters leaving Iraq and Syria augment the threat of terrorism in their countries of origin.

The previous reports to the Security Council on ISIL's global threat have focused on South-East Asia, Yemen and East Africa, Libya and Afghanistan. This fourth report focuses on Europe, North Africa and West Africa.

First, since declaring in 2014 its intent to attack Europe, ISIL has conducted a range of attacks in that region. Some of those attacks were directed and facilitated by ISIL personnel, while others were enabled by ISIL providing guidance or assistance or were inspired through its propaganda.

Secondly, while the military offensive in Libya has dislodged ISIL from its stronghold in Sirte, the group's threat to Libya and neighbouring countries exists. Its fighters — estimated to range from several hundred to 2,000 — have moved to other parts of the country.

Thirdly, ISIL has increased its presence in West Africa and the Maghreb, although the group does not control significant amounts of territory in the region. The reported loyalty pledge to ISIL by a splinter faction of Al-Mourabitoun, led by Lebdeh Abdel Wahid Ould Mohamed Lemine, will likely elevate the level of the threat.

Fourthly, ISIL affiliates have been attempting to spread its influence and commit terrorist acts beyond Nigeria and remain a serious threat, with several thousand fighters at its disposal. It is also plagued by financial difficulties and an internal power struggle, and has split into two factions. The Secretary-General also notes some of the measures taken by Member States

through the Security Council and the General Assembly since the last report.

On international cooperation and information-sharing, the report highlights resolution 2322 (2016), which calls upon Member States to consider establishing laws and mechanisms to allow for the broadest possible international cooperation in the judicial and law-enforcement spheres. The report also notes the General Assembly consensus resolution 71/19, of 21 November, aimed at further enhancing and strengthening collaboration between INTERPOL and the United Nations. INTERPOL reports that information-sharing among Member States has since increased.

The report also mentions resolution 2331 (2016), which recognizes the connection between human trafficking, sexual violence and terrorism and other transnational organized criminal activities and calls upon Member States to prosecute and penalize perpetrators. Some States, with help from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), have instituted special procedures to screen for trafficking victims among refugees and asylum-seekers.

The report highlights some of the actions Member States have taken in Europe, the Maghreb and West Africa to counter ISIL. With regard to Europe, for example, it stresses the improvements in States' information-sharing and cooperation on addressing terrorist attacks and on curtailing the travel and transit of foreign terrorist fighters. Although more work needs to be done, including on the use of advance passenger information systems, the report notes that substantial progress has been made to counter the financing of terrorism despite continuing challenges.

The report also notes the efforts by the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to prevent and counter violent extremism, including projects to bring together information on radicalization and intervention and raise awareness about the phenomenon.

With regard to the Maghreb and West Africa, the report notes that States are pooling resources regionally to combat terrorism, while improving the sharing of information on foreign terrorist fighters. It also highlights the fact that some States — with United Nations support — are developing and implementing counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism strategies. Some West African States are taking action on countering the financing of terrorism, including through legislation, although the report notes that few terrorist-financing cases have been prosecuted.

During the reporting period, a number of United Nations entities took further steps to support the efforts of Member States to counter the threat of ISIL. For instance, the CTITF Office and CTED are currently reviewing the Security Council-mandated All-of-UN capacity building implementation plan to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, in order to adjust it to the changing phenomenon. The 37 project proposals address the entire life-cycle of the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, including radicalization, travel, financing, and return and rehabilitation and reintegration should they return. The plan is currently 23 per cent funded.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre provides capacity-building assistance to Member States through a number of projects at the global, regional and national levels.

At the global level, progress was made on the border security initiative, the development of the border security and management programme and the advance passenger information project.

At the regional level, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre continued to provide assistance on the development of strategies to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. The Centre also continued its efforts to improve the capacity of Member States in East and West Africa to address kidnapping-for-ransom, which is a potential source of funds for ISIL-affiliated groups.

At the regional and national levels, the Integrated Assistance for Counter Terrorism (I-ACT) initiative aims to develop a coherent and coordinated capacity-building programme to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. During the reporting period, much progress was made in the implementation of the I-ACT, both in Mali, with the support of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, and regionally, in the preparation of an I-ACT for the Group of Five States for the Sahel, as mandated by presidential statement S/PRST/2013/26, on peace and security in Africa. The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre also continued its preparations for a project to enhance aviation security in Nigeria.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime published the *Handbook on the Management of Violent*

Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons. UNODC also continued to provide assistance to Member States in the Middle East and North Africa region aimed at strengthening law-enforcement capacity at international airports, as part of its airport communication project. UNODC and CTED collaborated to provide technical assistance to Member States on strengthening judicial cooperation on foreign terrorist fighters and held technical consultations with Nigeria on the prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons associated with terrorist organizations. The United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute implemented projects in the Maghreb on preventing and managing violent extremism, including in prison settings.

The need to develop sustained, coordinated responses to the grave threat posed by ISIL and associated groups and entities is beyond question. There are 19 universal counter-terrorism conventions and protocols, as well as related regional instruments on international terrorism, and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. But we need to do more, as Member States continue to face significant challenges to ensure effective international cooperation.

Improving our response is critical to addressing the growth of transnational terrorism as ISIL expands its area of attacks and foreign terrorist fighters leave Syria and Iraq. Although many foreign terrorist fighters stay behind in the conflict zone, those returning or leaving the conflict could pose a grave risk to the country of origin or to the countries they are travelling to or transiting through, such as Iraq and Syria's neighbours, as well as countries in the Maghreb.

The Secretary-General has warned that terrorism exacerbates conflicts and that it takes little to trigger a crisis that can engulf a country, or a region, with global consequences. He has urged Member States to step up efforts to resolve conflicts, including those that are responsible for the dramatic increase in global terrorism.

As we consider what more we can do to check and roll back ISIL, we must also step up efforts to prevent and resolve the violent conflicts that both drive and are made worse by terrorism. Those are mutually reinforcing pursuits. Ultimately, it is the spread and consolidation of peace, security, development and human rights that will most effectively deprive terrorism of the oxygen it needs to survive.

The President: I thank Mr. Feltman for his briefing.

The representative of Uruguay has asked for the floor to make a statement.

Mr. Bermúdez (Uruguay) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to express my gratitude for the briefing by Under-Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman on the fourth report (S/2017/97) of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering that threat.

The report provides us some encouraging information, although it also gives us serious cause for concern. We are pleased to learn that, following the military defeats suffered by Da'esh in Iraq and Syria, which were mentioned in the third report (S/2016/830) of the Secretary-General, that group remains militarily on the defensive in various areas, especially in Iraq, Syria, Libya and Afghanistan. The bad news is that the group is constantly seeking new ways to adapt to the new circumstances and updates its modus operandi, while continuing to poke holes in State and regional security systems.

We are also informed that Da'esh communications and recruitment systems are moving towards more covert methods, such as the so-called dark web, encryption messages and messengers. Furthermore, it carries out attacks using local terrorist cells or by calling on its followers to perpetrate attacks in third countries. All of this points to an organized ability to act with the support of transnational networks, which gives a new dimension to attacks by pseudo lone wolves. Dismantling such terrorist networks will require joint, coordinated efforts that go beyond the work of national authorities, as well as inter-State, regional and international coordination and cooperation. In that regard, we welcome the work done by INTERPOL and regional agencies such as EUROPOL.

As Under-Secretary-General Feltman just said, the fourth report focuses on Europe, the Maghreb and West Africa and tells of the various initiatives and projects being carried out by the United Nations in various areas, as well as by regional organizations and some States. We trust that they will produce good results and we encourage continuing along that path.

We reiterate our belief that cooperation and coordinated actions in various areas and at various levels are needed to combat the different facets of the complex phenomenon of terrorism — its financing,

contact networks and recruitment methods; the flow of foreign terrorist fighters; migration control and the problem of returnees, to cite just a few. However, we also believe that the main responsibility lies with States. That is why we support initiatives to provide technical and financial assistance to countries that lack the necessary means to prevent and combat such a complex and changing phenomenon, especially to the most affected countries. We also call on all States to show genuine political will to combat terrorism and its sources of financing without ambiguity or doublespeak.

We are particularly concerned about the systematic use of sexual violence as a terrorist tactic and about its link to human trafficking. In that regard, we commend the adoption of resolution 2331 (2016) last year. The report also mentions the recruitment of children by terrorist groups and the physical and sexual abuse that some migrant, asylum-seeking and refugee women are subjected to. Those practices deserve our strongest condemnation and are issues about which we would like to have further information.

We were moderately pleased by the information on the deterioration of the financial standing of Da'esh, because, despite the deterioration, the group still has enough resources to continue fighting and is calling for new forms of financing in order to increase the number of extortions and kidnappings, in particular through non-profit organizations and fundraising websites.

We are also concerned by the use of improvised explosive devices and the growing use of the Internet and information technologies to spread propaganda, identify potential recruits and incite individuals to commit acts of terrorism. In this second aspect, we encourage greater interaction among public and private actors and we note with satisfaction the joint initiatives of some private companies to develop a database of images intended to promote terrorism.

Before concluding, I must emphasize that we are pleased to know that efforts are also being made to prevent and combat violent extremism and radicalization. Preventing and combating terrorism is the duty of all members of the international community. Although my country belongs to a region where the threat of terrorism is fortunately minor, we are aware that no State is exempt from it. Uruguay believes that it is in everyone's interest that the United Nations be a linchpin among States and international, regional and subregional organizations. Inter-State cooperation and collaboration will make us much more effective in this struggle.

Lastly, I must mention that national counter-terrorism strategies must bear in mind States' obligations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

The President: The representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has asked for the floor to make a statement.

Mr. Llorentty Soliz (Plurinational State of Bolivia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Plurinational State of Bolivia thanks Mr. Jeffrey Feltman, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, for his briefing on the fourth report (S/2017/97) of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts and activities in support of Member States in countering the threat.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia reiterates its emphatic, categorical condemnation of terrorist acts in all their forms and manifestations — regardless of the motives for committing them, where they take place and who their perpetrators may be — since they are a deliberate attack on international peace and security and they represent flagrant violations of international law. At the same time, we wish to stress that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization.

We recognize the assessments of the reports of the Secretary-General that Da'esh is an unprecedented threat to international peace and security and that it is able to quickly adapt to changing environments and to persuade or inspire terrorist groups that are similar to it throughout the world to facilitate and commit acts of terrorism.

We value the regional focus of the Secretary-General on this occasion, in particular on the regions of Europe, the Maghreb and West Africa. We view with concern the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters returning to their countries of origin in Europe, as well as the online dissemination of designs for improvised explosive devices. While Da'esh has been forced out of cities such as Sirte in Libya, it continues to threaten neighbouring countries in the Maghreb and West Africa. We also note the efforts made by countries of those regions in the context of combating terrorism in

order to respond to the unprecendented threat posed by the so-called Islamic State to regional stability and security. We encourage them to continue making progress and coordinating their efforts in that direction.

We are particularly concerned by the situation of women, girls and boys, asylum-seekers and refugees. The Plurinational State of Bolivia also wishes to publicly recognize the efforts, sacrifices and achievements of the peoples of Iraq, Syria and Libya and all those who are on the frontlines in combating the scourge of terrorism in conflict areas and on the international level, especially with regard to the threat that Da'esh poses to international peace and security. We also recognize the efforts of Turkey, Iran and Russia in reaching a ceasefire agreement on Syria, in December 2016, and the efforts of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. Those efforts deal a great blow to the progress of the Islamic State and represent hope in being able to resolve the conflict through negotiations among the parties and the necessary fight against the Islamic State.

While we acknowledge Member States for their contributions set out in the fourth report, Bolivia believes that we must not forget the root causes of the problem of terrorism and the development of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant — intervention and regime-change policies. If we do not learn those lessons, we will be condemned to repeat history. We would not be sitting here dealing with this issue, denouncing the situation and the loss of over 1.5 million lives, had it not been for the invasion of Iraq, the attempts to not recognize and overthrow the Government of Syria and the planned destruction of Libya. Furthermore, it is ironic that some Governments responsible for those policies are the very ones that refuse to welcome refugees who are victims of terrorism in the conflict areas.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia once again acknowledges the work done by the United Nations to greatly alleviate the situation of victims of terrorism and to bolster the work of States in fighting this threat to international peace and security.

The President: I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.